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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2166**

**PATENT
5681-11700/P7517**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/087,234
Filed: March 1, 2002
Inventors:
Ajay Kumar
Hanumanthu Rao Susarla
Prakash Khemani

Title: LOCK MECHANISM FOR
A DISTRIBUTED DATA
SYSTEM

§ Examiner: Hwang, Joon H.
§ Group/Art Unit: 2166
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5681-11700
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

Printed Name

[Signature]

Signature

June 16, 2006

Date

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RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION OF APRIL 21, 2006

7/14/06
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**Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Action of April 21, 2006, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

Please amend the case as listed below.